CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

setting a first connection between an edge gateway of a first voice packet network, having voice data of a first format, and an interworking unit; and

setting a second connection between an edge gateway of a second voice packet network, having voice data of a second format, and the interworking unit.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

converting the voice data of the first format to voice data of the second format in the interworking unit.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

converting the voice data of the second format to voice data of the first format in the interworking unit.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the interworking server is a call agent of a voice packet network.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first voice packet network is a voice over asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 network.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the voice over asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 network is selected from the group consisting of a ITU Q.2630.1 controlled network, a PNNI controlled single-channel per Switched Virtual Circuit network, a permanent virtual circuits network, and a pre-assigned AAL2 channels within permanent virtual circuits network.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the second voice packet network is an internet protocol (IP) network capable of transporting real time protocol.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the interworking unit interfaces with a call agent in the voice over internet protocol network.

9. A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform a method comprising:

setting a first connection between an edge gateway of a first voice packet network, having voice data of a first format, and an interworking unit; and

setting a second connection between an edge gateway of a second voice packet network, having voice data of a second format, and the interworking unit.

10. The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the method further comprises:

converting the voice data of the first format to voice data of the second format in the interworking unit.

11. The machine-readable medium of claim 9 wherein the method further comprises:

converting the voice data of the second format to voice data of the first format in the interworking unit.

12. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the interworking server is a call agent of a voice packet network.

13. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the first voice packet network is a voice over asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 network.

14. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein the voice over asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 network is selected from the group consisting of a ITU Q.2630.1 controlled network, a PNNI controlled single-channel per Switched Virtual Circuit network, a permanent virtual circuits network, and a pre-assigned AAL2 channels within permanent virtual circuits network.

15. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein the second voice packet network is an internet protocol (IP) network capable of transporting real time protocol.

16. The machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the interworking unit interfaces with a call agent in the voice over internet protocol network.

17. An apparatus comprising:

an edge gateway of a first voice packet network, having voice data of a first format;

an edge gateway of a second voice packet network, having voice data of a second format;

an interworking unit to convert the voice data of the first format to voice data of the second format and to convert voice data of the second format to voice data of the first format;

a first call agent to set a first connection between the edge gateway of the first voice packet network and the interworking unit; and

a second call agent to set a second connection between the edge gateway of the second voice packet network and the interworking unit.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the interworking server is a call agent of a voice packet network.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first voice packet network is a voice over asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 network.

20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the voice over asynchronous transfer mode adaptation layer 2 network is selected from the group consisting of a ITU Q.2630.1 controlled network, a PNNI controlled single-channel per Switched Virtual Circuit network, a permanent virtual circuits network, and a pre-assigned AAL2 channels within permanent virtual circuits network.

21. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the second voice packet network is an internet protocol (IP) network capable of transporting real time protocol.

22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the interworking unit interfaces with a call agent in the voice over internet protocol network.

23. An interworking unit comprising:

a voice packet network conversion module to convert data of a first voice packet format to a second voice packet format; and

a call agent interface to interface to a voice packet network call agent such that the voice packet network call agent coordinates the conversion of data from the first voice packet format to the second voice packet format.

24. The interworking unit of claim 23 wherein the first voice packet format is voice over internet protocol and the second voice packet format is voice over asynchronous transfer mode.

25. The interworking unit of claim 23 wherein the first voice packet format is voice over asynchronous transfer mode and the second voice packet format is voice over internet protocol.

26. The interworking unit of claim 24 wherein the voice packet network call agent is a voice over internet protocol call agent.

27. The interworking unit of claim 24 wherein the voice packet network call agent is a voice over asynchronous transfer mode call agent.

28. The interworking unit of claim 25 wherein the voice packet network call agent is a voice over internet protocol call agent.

29. The interworking unit of claim 25 wherein the voice packet network call agent is a voice over asynchronous transfer mode call agent.

30. An apparatus comprising:

means for converting data of a first voice packet format to a second voice packet format; and

means for interfacing to a voice packet network call agent such that the voice packet network call agent coordinates the conversion of data from the first voice packet format to the second voice packet format.

31. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the first voice packet format is voice over internet protocol and the second voice packet format is voice over asynchronous transfer mode.

32. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the first voice packet format is voice over asynchronous transfer mode and the second voice packet format is voice over internet protocol.

33. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the voice packet network call agent is a voice over internet protocol call agent.

34. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the voice packet network call agent is a voice over asynchronous transfer mode call agent.

35. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the voice packet network call agent is a voice over internet protocol call agent.

36. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the voice packet network call agent is a voice over asynchronous transfer mode call agent.